

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for facilitating processing over a network, comprising the steps of:

generating at a server location on the network a pointer that defines an information profile on the network;

5 associating the pointer with the information profile;

propagating the pointer and the associated information profile over the network to at least two locations on the network;

10 wherein the pointer can be transmitted to one of the at least two locations on the network from another location on the network for the purpose of processing a network transaction at the receiving one of the at least two locations on the network, which network transaction requires the associated information profile, such that only transmission of the pointer is required for the processing operation.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information associated with the pointer is subject to classification in accordance with a predetermined classification scheme, and the pointer has embedded therein associated classification information of the associated information profile.

3. The method of Claim 2, and further comprising the step of generating the pointer utilizing the information profile.

4. The method of claim 3, and further comprising the step of generating the classification information in accordance with the predetermined classification scheme for embedding within the pointer.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein only a portion of the information profile associated with the pointer is subject to the classification step.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating comprises generating a plurality of pointers at the server location in response to receiving a plurality of information profiles, with a separate and distinct pointer generated for each of the information profiles, and the step of propagating comprises propagating all of the pointers and the associated profile information over the network to the at least two locations on the network.

7. A method for facilitating processing of information between first and second systems over a network, which network includes a first local network associated with the first system and a second local network associated with the second system, with a global network connecting the first and second local networks, comprising the steps of:

5 at each of the first and second systems:

generating at a server location on the associated first or second local networks a unique pointer to the respective first and second system that defines an information profile for predetermined information on the respective first and second system;

10 associating the pointer with the information profile;

propagating the pointer and the associated information profile over the respective first or second local network to at least two locations on the respective first or second local network;

15 wherein the pointer can be transmitted to one of the at least two locations on the respective first or second local network from another location on the respective first or second local network for the purpose of processing a network transaction at the receiving one of the at least two locations on the respective first or second local network, which network transaction requires the associated information profile, such that only
20 transmission of the pointer is required for the processing operation on the respective first or second system.

8. The method of Claim 7, and further comprising the step of propagating pointers generated at one of the first or second systems to the other of the first or second systems to the at least two locations on the respective first or second local network of the other of the first or second systems, wherein transactions between the first and second systems can
5 take place utilizing only pointers.

5 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of propagating pointers generated at one of the first or second systems to the other of the first or second systems comprises the step of first generating a joiner pointer for each of the pointers that is to be transmitted to the other of the first or second systems that is different than the pointer, and transmitting the joiner pointer instead of the associated pointer, such that all transactions from the one of the first and second systems to the other thereof is facilitated with joiner pointers.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein the information associated with the pointer is subject to classification in accordance with a predetermined classification scheme for each of the first and second systems, and the pointer has embedded therein associated classification information of the associated information profile.

11. The method of Claim 10, and further comprising the step of generating the pointer utilizing the information profile at the respective first or second system.

12. The method of claim 11, and further comprising the step of generating the classification information in accordance with the predetermined classification scheme at the respective first or second system for embedding within the pointer.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein only a portion of the information profile associated with the pointer at the respective first or second system is subject to the classification step.

5 14. The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of generating comprises generating at the respective first or second system a plurality of pointers at the associated server location in response to receiving a plurality of information profiles, with a separate and distinct pointer generated for each of the information profiles, and the step of propagating comprises propagating all of the pointers and the associated profile information over the

respective first or second local network to the at least two locations on the respective first or second local network.

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15. A method for facilitating processing over a network, comprising the steps of:
generating at a server location on the network a pointer that defines an
information profile on the network;
associating the pointer with the information profile;
5 propagating the pointer and the associated information profile over the
network to at least one location on the network;
wherein the pointer can be transmitted to one of the at least two locations
on the network from another location on the network for the purpose of processing a
network transaction at the receiving one of the at least one location on the network, which
10 network transaction requires the associated information profile, such that only transmission
of the pointer is required for the processing operation.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the information associated with the
pointer is subject to classification in accordance with a predetermined classification
scheme, and the pointer has embedded therein associated classification information of the
associated information profile.

17. The method of Claim 16, and further comprising the step of generating the
pointer utilizing the information profile.

18. The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of generating the
classification information in accordance with the predetermined classification scheme for
embedding within the pointer.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein only a portion of the information profile
associated with the pointer is subject to the classification step.

20. The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of generating comprises generating
a plurality of pointers at the server location in response to receiving a plurality of

information profiles, with a separate and distinct pointer generated for each of the
information profiles, and the step of propagating comprises propagating all of the pointers
5 and the associated profile information over the network to the at least on the network.

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Office
Washington, D.C.
20530

21. A method for transferring data between the first and second systems, with the first system having data stored and associated in a first database with a first database structure and the second system having associated therewith data in a second database with a second database structure, comprising the steps of:

5 accessing select portions of the data from the first system database, each record in the first database residing at a defined address therein;

 transferring the select portion of the first database to the second system in the first database structure;

 storing at the second system the received portion of the first database in the first
10 database structure as an external database, such that each of the records in the portion are associated with the address corresponding to the first database structure;

 transferring a portion of the external database to the second database of the second system such that it is in the second database structure and each record transferred from the external database has an address consistent with the second database structure and defined
15 by the second database structure;

 mapping the portion of the external database transferred to the second database back to the external database such that a link exists between the portion of the external database transferred to the second database and the external database.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of accessing select portions of the data is performed in response to a request from the second database.

23. The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of disseminating from the second system data to other databases therein which have a database structure substantially similar to the second database structure and with different addresses associated therewith with links in the second database to the auxiliary databases and
5 addresses associated therewith and further comprising the step of changing data in the external database which change will be propagated from the second database to the auxiliary databases linked thereto.